

Serial No. 10/015,740

05004273.001US1

Remarks

The Office Action dated April 23, 2004, has been carefully considered. After such consideration, Claims 1 has been amended as such, Claims 1-9 remain in the case with claims 1-6 and 9 not being allowed and claims 6, 7, and 8 not being rejected. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Office Action also rejects all of claims 1-6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nordegren, et al. (U.S. Pat. No.: 4,011,838). Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite that in the method for milking animals the steps include sequentially stimulating the teats of the animal, as a way to stimulate the udder; pulsating pressure in a milking cup gap so as to effect each sequential stimulation of the teats; and milking the stimulated teats. Applicant submits that amendment of claim 1 renders the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection moot. That is, Nordegren, et al. neither discloses nor suggests the claimed combination of steps. The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) being rejection moot should be withdrawn.

As independent claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Nordegren, et al., dependent claims 2-6 and 9 are patentable. Likewise, claims 6, 7, and 8 are patentable.

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In light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, Applicant submits that Claims 1-9 of the case are in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully requests such action. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

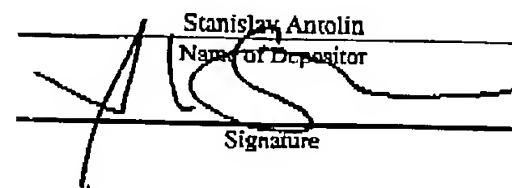


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